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UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL

(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))

Attorney Docket No. 1807.1365

First Named Inventor or Application Identifier

FÉLIX HENRY, ET AL.

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U.S. PTO**APPLICATION ELEMENTS**

See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents.

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Box Patent Application
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(Submit an original, and a duplicate for fee processing)6. Microfiche Computer Program (Appendix)2. Specification Total Pages 277. Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission
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4. Oath or Declaration Total Pages 2

- a. Newly executed (original or copy)
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- c. Copy from a prior application (37 CFR 1.63(d))
(for continuation/divisional with Box 17 completed)
[Note Box 5 below]

i. **DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)**
Signed Statement attached deleting inventor(s)
named in the prior application, see 37 CFR
1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).

5. Incorporation By Reference (useable if Box 4c is checked)
The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which a copy of the
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ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS		
8. <input type="checkbox"/>	Assignment Papers (cover sheet & document(s))	
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17. If a CONTINUING APPLICATION, check appropriate box and supply the requisite information:

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CLAIMS	(1) FOR	(2) NUMBER FILED	(3) NUMBER EXTRA	(4) RATE	(5) CALCULATIONS
	TOTAL CLAIMS (37 CFR 1.16(c))	32-20 =	12	X \$ 18.00 =	\$ 216.00
	INDEPENDENT CLAIMS (37 CFR 1.16(b))	4-3 =	1	X \$ 78.00 =	\$ 78.00
	MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIMS (if applicable) (37 CFR 1.16(d))			\$260.00 =	\$ 0.00
				BASIC FEE (37 CFR 1.16(a))	\$ 690.00
				Total of above Calculations =	\$ 984.00
	Reduction by 50% for filing by small entity (Note 37 CFR 1.9, 1.27, 1.28).				
				TOTAL =	\$ 984.00

19. Small entity status

- a. A Small entity statement is enclosed
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- c. Is no longer claimed.

20. A check in the amount of \$ 984.00 to cover the filing fee is enclosed.

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- b. Fees required under 37 CFR 1.17.
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SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED	
NAME	Jack M. Arnold (Reg. No. 25,823)
SIGNATURE	
DATE	June 1, 2000

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
FELIX HENRY ET AL.) : Examiner: NYA
Application No.: NYA) : Group Art Unit: NYA
Filed: Herewith) :
For: METHOD OF MODIFYING)
THE GEOMETRIC :
ORIENTATION OF AN)
IMAGE : June 1, 2000

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Preliminary to examination, please amend the above-
identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 21, line 1, change "REVENDICATIONS" TO -- WHAT
IS CLAIMED IS: --.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1-18, 22 and 26-32 as follows:

1. (Amended) [Method] A method of modifying the geometric orientation of a digital image [(1)] in an image acquisition apparatus [(20)] adapted to acquire an image [(1)] in one amongst several different orientations and to store said image in the form of a compressed file, characterised in that it comprises the following steps:

[-] acquiring [(E1)] an image [(1)] in a chosen orientation;

[-] identifying [(E2)] said chosen orientation;

[-] converting [(E3)] said image into a digital image;

[-] spectral [transformation (E10) of] transforming said digital image;

[-] determining [(E12-E15)] a geometric transformation to be applied to said image acquired as a function of the chosen orientation;

[-] applying [(E16-E18)] the geometric transformation determined to symbols associated with spectral coefficients issuing from said spectral [transformation] transforming;

[-] recording [(E20)] in the compressed file two indicators [(lh, lv)] representing a normal or reversed

order of the symbols respectively in two directions of the digital image [(1)]; and

[-] coding [(E21)] the digital image in said compressed file.

2. (Amended) [Geometric] The geometric orientation modification method according to Claim 1, characterised in that it includes a step [(E11)] of quantizing the spectral coefficients before the step [(E16-E18)] of applying the geometric transformation, said symbols being quantization symbols.

3. (Amended) [Geometric] The geometric orientation modification method according to [one of Claims 1 or 2] Claim 1, characterised in that said spectral [transformation] transforming is a multiresolution decomposition, such as a wavelet spectral decomposition.

4. (Amended) [Geometric] The geometric orientation modification method according to [one of Claims 1 to 3] Claim 1, characterised in that the step [(E12-E15)] of identifying the chosen orientation is implemented by an

automatic orientation detector [(27)] incorporated in said image acquisition apparatus [(20)].

5. (Amended) [Geometric] The geometric orientation modification method according to [one of Claims 1 to 3] Claim 1, characterised in that the step [(E12-E-15)] of identifying the chosen orientation is implemented by a manual orientation selector [(28)] incorporated in said image acquisition apparatus [(20)].

6. (Amended) [Geometric] The geometric orientation modification method according to [one of Claims 1 to 5] Claim 1, characterised in that the image acquisition orientation is chose from amongst a rotation through 90 degrees, a rotation through 180 degrees or a rotation through 270 degrees.

7. (Amended) [Geometric] The geometric orientation modification method according to [one of Claims 1 to 6] Claim 1, characterised in that said spectral transformation is a multiresolution spectral decomposition, such as a wavelet spectral decomposition, and in that it also comprises a step of transposition [(E19)] of a frequency sub-

band $[(HL_1, HL_2, HL_3)]$ having coefficients of low frequency in a first direction of the digital image and of high frequency in a second direction of the digital image with a frequency sub-band $[(LH_1, LH_2, LH_3)]$ of the same resolution level in the spectral decomposition, having coefficients of high frequency in said first direction and of low frequency in said second direction when the geometric transformation comprises a rotation through 90 degrees or 270 degrees.

8. (Amended) [Geometric] The geometric orientation modification method according to [one of Claims 1 to 7] Claim 1, characterised in that it also comprises a step of transposition [(E19)] of the values of the height and width of the image when the geometric transformation applied comprises a rotation through 90 degrees or 270 degrees.

9. (Amended) [Device] A device for modifying the geometric orientation of a digital image [(1)] incorporated in an image acquisition apparatus [(20)] adapted to acquire an image in accordance with one amongst several different orientations and to store said image in the form of a compressed file, having:

[-] means [of] for acquiring [(21,22)] an image [(1)] in a chosen orientation;

[-] means [of] for identifying [(27, 28)] said chosen orientation;

[-] means [of] for converting [(23)] said image into a digital image;

[-] means [of] for spectral transformation [(24, 29, 30)] of said digital image;

[-] means [of] for determining [(24, 29, 30)] a geometric transformation to be applied to said image acquired as a function of the chose orientation;

[-] means [of] for applying [(24, 29, 30)] the geometric transformation determined to symbols associated with spectral coefficients issuing from said spectral transformation;

[-] means [of] for recording [(24, 29, 30)] in the compressed file two indicators [(lh, lv)] representing a normal or reversed order of the symbol respectively in two directions of the digital image [(1)]; and

[-] means [of] for coding [24, 29, 30)] the digital image [(1)] in said compressed file.

10. (Amended) [Geometric] The geometric orientation modification device according to Claim 9, characterised in that it has means [(24, 29, 30) of] for quantizing the spectral coefficients adapted to quantize said spectral coefficients before application of the geometric transformation, said symbols being quantization symbols.

11. (Amended) [Geometric] The geometric orientation modification device according to [one of Claims 9 or 10] Claim 9, characterised in that said spectral transformation is a multiresolution spectral decomposition, such as a wavelet spectral decomposition.

12. (Amended) [Geometric] The geometric orientation modification device according to [one of Claims 9 to 11] Claim 9, characterised in that the means [of] for identifying the chosen orientation comprise an automatic orientation detector [(27)] incorporated in said image acquisition apparatus [(20)].

13. (Amended) [Geometric] The geometric orientation modification device according to [one of Claims 9 to 12] Claim 9, characterised in that the means [of] for

identifying the chosen orientation comprise a manual orientation selector [(28)] incorporated in said image acquisition apparatus [(20)].

14. (Amended) [Geometric] The geometric orientation modification device according to [one of Claims 9 to 13] Claim 9, characterised in that the image acquisition orientation is chose from amongst a rotation through 90 degrees, a rotation through 180 degrees or a rotation through 270 degrees.

15. (Amended) [Geometric] The geometric orientation modification device according to [one of Claims 9 to 14] Claim 9, characterised in that said spectral transformation is a multiresolution spectral decomposition, such as a wavelet spectral decomposition, and in that it also comprises means [of] for transposition [(24, 29, 30)] of a frequency sub-band [(HL_1 , HL_2 , HL_3)] having coefficients of low frequency in a first direction of the digital image and of high frequency in a second direction of the digital image with a frequency sub-band [(LH_1 , LH_2 , LH_3)] of the same resolution level in the spectral decomposition, having coefficients of high frequency in said first direction and of

low frequency in said second direction when the geometric transformation comprises a rotation through 90 degrees or 270 degrees.

16. (Amended) [Geometric] The geometric orientation modification device according to [one of Claims 9 to 15] Claim 9, characterised in that it also has means [(24, 29, 30) of] for transposing the values of the height and width of the image when the geometric transformation applied comprises a rotation through 90 degrees or 270 degrees.

17. (Amended) [Geometric] The geometric orientation modification device according to [one of Claims 9 to 16] Claim 9, characterised in that the means for the spectral transformation of said digital image, the means [of] for determining a geometric transformation, the means [of] for applying the geometric transformation, the means [of] for entering indicators [(lh, lv)] in the compressed file, the coding means, and if applicable the quantization and transposition means, are incorporated in:

[-] a microprocessor [(24)],

[-] a read only memory [(29)] containing a program for modifying the geometric orientation of a digital image [(1)], and

[-] a random access memory [(30)] containing registers adapted to record variables during the running of said program.

18. (Amended) An image processing method, comprising the steps of;

[-] generating image data representing an image;

[-] wavelet-transforming the image data;

[-] quantizing the transformed data; and

[-] entropically encoding the quantized data, characterized in that said method further comprises the steps of:

[-] identifying a correct orientation of the image represented by the image data, and

[-] applying a geometric transformation to the transformed data in accordance with the result of the identification.

22. (Amended) An image processing apparatus,
comprising:

[-] means [of] for generating an image data
representing an image;

[-] means [of] for wavelet-transforming the
image data;

[-] means [of] for quantizing the transformed
data; and

[-] means [of] for entropically encoding the
quantized data, characterized in that said apparatus further
comprises:

[-] means [of] for identifying a correct
orientation of the image represented by the image data; and

[-] means [of] for applying a geometric
transformation to said transformed data in accordance with
the result of the identification.

26. (Amended) [Image] An image acquisition
apparatus, characterised in that it has a geometric
orientation modification device according to [one of Claims 9
to 17] Claim 9.

27. (Amended) [Digital] A digital photographic apparatus, characterised in that it has a geometric orientation modification device according to [one of Claims 9 to 17] Claim 9.

28. (Amended) [Digital] A digital camera adapted to function in a still image mode, characterised in that it has a geometric orientation modification device according to [one of Claims 9 to 17] Claim 9.

29. (Amended) [Storage] A storage means, readable by a microprocessor, characterized in that it is adapted to implement the geometric orientation modification method according to [one of Claims 1 to 8] Claim 1.

30. (Amended) [Storage] A storage means, readable by a microprocessor, characterized in that it is adapted to implement the image processing method according to [one of Claims 18 to 21] Claim 18.

31. (Amended) [Computer] A computer program product, loadable into a programmable processing apparatus, characterized in that it comprises software code portions

adapted to implement the geometric orientation modification method according to [one of claims 1 to 8] Claim 1.

32. (Amended) [Computer] A computer program product, loadable into a programmable processing apparatus, characterized in that it comprises software code portions adapted to implement the image processing method according to [one of claims 18 to 21] Claim 18.

REMARKS

Claims 1-32 are now presented for examination, and by this preliminary amendment Claims 1-18, 22 and 26-32 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention.

Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All

correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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CRF303
BIF022258/US

PATENT OF INVENTION

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TITLE

Method of modifying the geometric orientation of an image

10 The present invention concerns a method and device for modifying the geometric orientation of a digital image.

It concerns more particularly the geometric transformation of an image in an image acquisition apparatus, such as a digital photographic apparatus or a digital camera, which can take images in different orientations, 15 and then store them in a compressed data file before they are displayed.

In this type of apparatus, photographs or images can be taken in several different orientations, according to the position of the appliance with respect to the object to be photographed.

There are generally distinguished at least one so-called "landscape" 20 orientation, in which the apparatus is placed horizontally, and a so-called "portrait" orientation, in which the apparatus is placed vertically.

Generally, the images thus taken in different orientations are stored in a compressed file in a single orientation, then subsequently displayed on a screen, integrated or not into the apparatus. It is then necessary to modify the 25 orientation of the display screen according to the orientation of the images, notably by rotating the apparatus or display screen through 90 degrees.

The document US 5 900 909 describes a digital photographic apparatus which makes it possible to improve the convenience of display of the images taken in different orientations.

30 For this purpose, it describes an apparatus equipped with an automatic detector for the orientation of the apparatus when the photograph is

taken. According to this orientation detection, a rotation of the image is effected in the apparatus, before storing this digital image in a memory of the apparatus and displaying it.

Each image can thus be stored in the apparatus in an orientation
5 allowing convenient display of the image.

In this document, the image is acquired by a CCD (Charge Coupled Device) sensor, and then read by an analogue to digital converter. When the orientation of the image is to be modified, the direction of reading the rows and columns of the signal output from the CCD sensor is modified according to the
10 desired orientation and the value of the width and height of the image are modified, that is to say, as a general rule, reversed.

The present invention proposes a method and device for modifying the geometric orientation of a digital image which effects a rapid modification of the orientation in space of a digital image which is to be coded in a compressed
15 file.

To this end, the present invention relates to a method of modifying the geometric orientation of a digital image in an image acquisition apparatus adapted to acquire an image in one amongst several different orientations and to store said image in the form of a compressed file.

20 In accordance with the invention, this method comprises the following steps:

- acquiring an image in a chosen orientation;
- identifying said chosen orientation;
- converting said image into a digital image;
- spectral transformation of said digital image;
- determining a geometric transformation to be applied to said image acquired as a function of the chosen orientation;
- applying the geometric transformation determined to symbols associated with spectral coefficients issuing from said spectral transformation;

- recording in the compressed file two indicators representing a normal or reversed order of the symbols respectively in two directions of the digital image; and

- coding the digital image in said compressed file.

5 Thus it is particularly advantageous to effect the manipulation and geometric transformation of the digital image in the compressed field on the image, on symbols representing coefficients issuing from a spectral transformation of an image, in order to reduce the calculations and complexity of this operation and to be more efficient in terms of memory consumption.

10 This geometric transformation of an image can thus be effected at the time of the conventional coding of the image in a compressed data file, after spectral transformation of the digital image, by virtue of the identification of the orientation of the image at the time of acquisition thereof.

15 The recording of two indicators in the compressed file makes it possible, when the image is decoded, notably for display, to take account of the modification of the order of the spectral coefficients in order to apply a reverse spectral transformation to the digital signal.

20 Such indicators can for example be updated by alternation of the values 0 and 1 representing respectively a normal or reversed order of the symbols, for each direction of the digital image.

According to a preferred characteristic of the invention, this method of modifying the geometric orientation includes a step of quantizing the spectral coefficients before the step of applying the geometric transformation, said symbols being quantization symbols.

25 This quantization step is normally used at the time of coding a digital image with loss.

According to another preferred characteristic of the invention, the spectral transformation is a multiresolution spectral decomposition, such as a wavelet spectral decomposition.

In this way a division of the image into frequency signal sub-bands is obtained, which makes it possible to apply a geometric transformation to data areas of smaller sizes than that of the original image.

This characteristic also makes it possible to obtain a saving in time
5 during the geometric transformation of the digital image.

According to one advantageous characteristic of the invention, the step of identifying the chosen orientation is implemented by an automatic orientation detector incorporated in said image acquisition apparatus.

This automatic detection can thus be effected by detecting the
10 position of the apparatus when the image is acquired.

Alternatively, the step of identifying the chosen orientation is implemented by a manual orientation selector incorporated in said image acquisition apparatus.

This selector enables a user to define the position of the apparatus
15 before a photograph is taken.

In both cases, whether the image orientation is identified by an automatic detector incorporated in the apparatus or by a manual selector, this identification makes it possible to indicate, before coding of the image, the orientation of the latter in order to effect, if necessary, a geometric
20 transformation thereof before storing in a compressed data file.

In practice, the image acquisition orientation is chosen from amongst a rotation through 90 degrees, a rotation through 180 degrees or a rotation through 270 degrees.

A photographic apparatus can thus be pivoted in space from its
25 normal position of use without any inconvenience in the taking of the images, which will automatically be stored in the apparatus in a convenient display position.

In a practical implementation of the invention, when the spectral transformation is a multiresolution spectral decomposition, such as a wavelet
30 spectral decomposition, the method of modifying the geometric orientation also comprises a step of transposition of a frequency sub-band having coefficients

of low frequency in a first direction of the digital image and of high frequency in a second direction of a digital image with a sub-band with a frequency of the same resolution level in the spectral decomposition, having coefficients of high frequency in said first direction and of low frequency in said second direction

5 when the geometric transformation comprises a rotation through 90 degrees or 270 degrees.

This transposition makes it possible to take into account the changes in direction of the symbols during rotation of an image through 90 or 270 degrees, for example, for a correct application of the digital signal decoding

10 method.

According to another practical characteristic of the invention, the method of modifying the geometric orientation also comprises a step of transposing the values of the height and width of the image when the geometric transformation applied comprises a rotation through 90 degrees or 270

15 degrees.

Correlatively, the present invention also concerns a device for modifying the geometric orientation of a digital image incorporated in an image acquisition apparatus adapted to acquire an image in accordance with one amongst several different orientations and to store said image in the form of a

20 compressed file, having:

- means of acquiring an image in a chosen orientation;
- means of identifying said chosen orientation;
- means of converting said image into a digital image;
- means of spectral transformation of said digital image;

25 - means of determining a geometric transformation to be applied to said image acquired as a function of the chosen orientation;

- means of applying the geometric transformation determined to symbols associated with spectral coefficients issuing from said spectral transformation;

- means of recording in the compressed file two indicators representing a normal or reversed order of the symbols respectively in two directions of the digital image; and
- means of coding the digital image in said compressed file.

5 This geometric orientation modification device has characteristics and advantages similar to those described previously for the geometric orientation modification method according to the invention.

The present invention also concerns an image processing method, comprising the steps of ;

10

- generating image data representing an image;
- wavelet-transforming the image data;
- quantizing the transformed data; and
- entropically encoding the quantized data, characterized in that said method further comprising the steps of:

15

- identifying a correct orientation of the image represented by the image data, and
- applying a geometric transformation to the transformed data in accordance with the result of the identification.

20 Thank to this method, the geometric transformation can be performed directly to the transformed data, after identifying the correct orientation of the image.

According to a preferred characteristic of the invention, image data are transformed into sub-bands corresponding to each of a plurality of resolution levels in said wavelet-transforming.

25 Then, the geometric transformation is performed to the signal sub-bands obtained by a wavelet spectral decomposition.

In practice, the result of the identification is classified in four kinds of cases, that is landscape, inverse landscape, portrait and inverse portrait orientations.

According to a preferred characteristic of the invention, the image processing method comprises a step of storing the information showing the result of the identification and the encoded data.

The present invention also concerns an image acquisition apparatus, a digital photographic apparatus and a digital camera adapted to function in a still image mode having a geometric orientation modification device according to the invention.

It also relates to a storage means or information medium, which can be read by a computer or a microprocessor, incorporated or not into the latter, possibly removable, comprising portions of software codes or program instructions to implement the steps of the geometric orientation modification method or of the image processing method according to the invention, when said storage means or information medium is used by the microprocessor or a computer.

Finally, the present invention also concerns a computer program product, loadable into a processing apparatus, and comprising software code portions adapted to implement the geometric orientation modification method or the image processing method according to the invention.

The advantages of the image acquisition apparatus, the digital photographic apparatus, the digital camera, the storage or information medium means and the computer program product are similar to those of the method which they implement.

Other particularities and advantages of the invention will also emerge from the following description of a preferred embodiment of the invention.

In the accompanying drawings, given by way of non-limitative examples:

- Figure 1 is a diagram illustrating different possible orientations of an image according to the position of an image acquisition apparatus according to the invention;

Figure 2 is a block diagram of a digital photographic apparatus adapted to implement the invention;

Figure 3 is a general algorithm of the geometric orientation modification method according to one embodiment of the invention;

5 Figure 4 is an algorithm detailing the geometric orientation modification method according to one embodiment of the invention; and

Figures 5 and 6 illustrate a spectral decomposition of an image into frequency sub-bands.

10 A description will be given below of an embodiment of the present invention, in which the method of modifying the geometric orientation of an image is incorporated in a digital photographic apparatus.

Naturally, this method according to the invention could be implemented in a similar fashion in a digital camera adapted to function in a 15 photo mode, or in other words in a mode of taking still images, or in any other digital image acquisition apparatus able to change position during acquisition of such images.

Figure 1 illustrates different cases which can arise when a user wishes to take a photograph of an object O with a photographic apparatus 20 20 which can occupy several positions in space.

In case A, the apparatus 20 is positioned horizontally, in a normal position of use, identical to the position of the object O. This position corresponds to a so-called "landscape" orientation of the image I obtained by the apparatus 20.

25 In a second case B, the apparatus is also positioned horizontally, but is inverted with respect to the position of the object O. This position corresponds to a so-called "inverse landscape" orientation of the image I obtained by the apparatus 20. The image I is pivoted through an angle of 180 degrees with respect to the normal display orientation.

30 In a third case C, the apparatus is positioned vertically and is turned through an angle of 90 degrees to the right with respect to the position of the

object O. This position corresponds to a so-called "portrait" orientation of the image I obtained by the apparatus 20. The image is then pivoted through an angle of 90 degrees to the right with respect to the normal display orientation.

Finally, in a fourth case D, the apparatus is positioned vertically and 5 is turned through an angle of 90 degrees to the left with respect to the position of the object O. This position corresponds to a so-called "inverse portrait" orientation of the image I obtained by the apparatus 20. The image is then pivoted through an angle of 270 degrees to the right with respect to the normal display orientation.

10 In the first case A, the image I can be displayed with correct orientation on a screen incorporated in the apparatus 20 or on an independent television screen. On the other hand, in the other three cases, it is necessary to modify the orientation of the image I in order to display it correctly.

For this purpose, the photographic apparatus 20 as illustrated in 15 Figure 2 incorporates a geometric orientation modification device according to the invention.

This apparatus has means of acquiring an image I in an orientation chosen by the user which depends, as explained above, on the position of the apparatus 20 with respect to the object to be photographed. This image 20 acquisition orientation is chosen here from amongst a rotation through 90 degrees, a rotation through 180 degrees or a rotation through 270 degrees with respect to the normal orientation of the apparatus 20.

To this end, the photographic apparatus 20 has, in a usual fashion, a lens 21 and a grid of CCD sensors 22.

25 These components are conventional in a digital photographic apparatus and do not need to be described in any more detail here.

It also has, directly in connection with the object of the invention, means of identifying the chosen orientation in which the photograph is taken.

These identification means can comprise an automatic orientation 30 detector 27 incorporated in the apparatus 20.

This orientation detector 27 makes it possible to automatically detect the position of the apparatus 20 with respect to its "normal" position of use.

Examples of orientation detectors are described notably in the document US 5 900 909. It is possible to use, for example, a photoelectric 5 switch in which a ball blocking the light can move along a guide groove, according to the orientation of the apparatus. A pair emitting and receiving light rays is placed at each end of this guide groove in order to detect the orientation of the apparatus in the two opposite vertical positions of the apparatus corresponding to the "portrait" and "inverse portrait" orientations. A similar 10 device could make it possible to distinguish the "landscape" and "inverse landscape" orientations.

Alternatively, the identification means comprise a manual orientation selector 28 incorporated in the apparatus 20, which enables the user to indicate, when the photographic image is taken, the position of the apparatus 15 20. This selector 28 can be a rotary knob adapted to occupy four positions each corresponding to a position of the apparatus 20 in space.

Naturally, one and the same photographic apparatus 20 can have both an automatic orientation detector and a manual selector for greater flexibility in use.

20 The apparatus 20 has means of converting the image I into a digital image I comprising a conventional converter 23 adapted to transform analogue signals issuing from the CCD sensors 22 into digital signals.

It also has a processor 24 which makes it possible to effect all the 25 digital processings necessary to the coding of the image and to its geometric transformation according to the invention.

This processor has for this purpose means of spectral transformation of the digital image I, adapted for example to effect a multiresolution spectral decomposition of the image, such as a wavelet spectral decomposition.

By way of example, these spectral decomposition means consist of a conventional set of filters, respectively associated with decimators by two, which filter the image signal in two directions.

The processor 24 also has means of quantizing the spectral 5 coefficients thus obtained, adapted to quantize the spectral coefficients, and coding means adapted for example to effect an entropic coding, of the Huffman coding or arithmetic coding type.

This processor 24 also has means of determining the geometric transformation to be applied to the required image I according to the orientation 10 identified by the detector 27 or selector 28.

It also has, for effecting this geometric transformation of the image, which is here a rotation through 90, 180, or 270 degrees, means of applying the geometric transformation to symbols associated with the spectral coefficients issuing from said spectral transformation, such as, for example, quantization 15 symbols.

Mean of recording, in the compressed file adapted to store the coded image I, two indicators l_h , l_v representing a normal or reversed order of the symbols respectively in the horizontal and vertical directions of the digital image I, are also incorporated in the processor 24.

20 In addition, the processor 24 also incorporates means of transposing a frequency sub-band having coefficients of low frequency in a first direction of the digital image and of high frequency in a second direction of a digital image with a frequency sub-band of the same resolution in the spectral decomposition, having coefficients of high frequency in said first direction and 25 low frequency in second direction. This transposing is effected when the geometric transformation applied comprises a rotation through 90 degrees or 270 degrees.

The processor 24 also comprises means of transposing the values of the height and width of the image when the geometric transformation applied 30 comprises a rotation through 90 degrees or 270 degrees.

The functioning of all these means will be understood better hereinafter in the description of the geometric orientation modification method which they implement.

The photographic apparatus 20 also has a read only memory (ROM) 5 containing the program for modifying the geometric orientation of a digital image I, and a random access memory (RAM) having registers adapted to record variables modified during the running of this program.

In particular, it contains a register 31 for storing the indicator Iv relating to the vertical direction of the image I and a register 32 for storing the 10 indicator Ih relating to the horizontal direction of the image I.

A non-volatile memory 25 also makes it possible to store, in compressed form, the digital images I, possibly associated with the value of the indicators Ih and Iv of modification of the order of the coefficients in the two directions of the image.

15 The processor 24 will execute the instructions relating to the implementation of the invention, instructions stored in the read only memory 29. On powering up, the programs and methods stored in one of the non-volatile memories of the apparatus 20 are transferred into the random access memory 30, which will then contain the executable code of the invention.

20 As a variant, the orientation modification programs and methods can be stored on a removable diskette, the apparatus 20 then including a suitable disk drive.

Naturally, the diskettes can be replaced by any information medium such as CD-ROM or memory card.

25 A communication bus allows, in a conventional manner, communication between the elements of the apparatus 20 or connected to it. In particular, the processor 24 is able to communicate instructions to any sub-element of the apparatus 20 or by means of another sub-element of the apparatus 20.

An interface 26 makes it possible to transmit the images, compressed or not, to a computer or to a television set (not shown), notably in order to display them.

Naturally, the photographic apparatus 20 could also have an 5 integrated display screen for the stored images, or the liquid crystal display (LCD) type.

A description will now be given, with reference to Figures 3 to 6, of the geometric orientation modification method in one embodiment of the invention.

10 This method includes first of all a step E1 of acquiring an image I in a chosen orientation.

For this purpose, the user presses, for example, on a shutter release (not shown) on the photographic apparatus 20 placed in a chosen position, for example the vertical position corresponding to case C illustrated in 15 Figure 1, in which the images are taken in a "portrait" mode.

A step E2 of identifying the chosen orientation is then implemented, either by means of automatic detector, or by means of the manual selector 28.

In all cases, an item of information indicating the image I is turned through an angle of 90 degrees to the right is recorded in the apparatus 20.

20 The conventional operations of capturing the analogue image and converting this image into a digital signal are then performed in a processing step E3. Other processings of the image, peculiar to the photographic apparatus 20, could also be effected at this same step E3.

A step E4 of compressing the digital image I is then implemented in 25 order to store this compressed image in a file during a storage step E5.

In accordance with the invention, the geometric manipulation, which is here a rotation of the image I through 90 degrees to the left, is effected during the compression step E4.

This step is detailed, according to an embodiment which is in no way 30 limitative, in Figure 4.

It includes first of all a step of spectral transformation E10 of the digital image I.

In this example, the spectral transformation is a multiresolution spectral decomposition, such as a wavelet spectral decomposition.

Such a spectral decomposition into frequency sub-bands of the image I is illustrated schematically in Figures 5 and 6, for example at a decomposition level of 3.

This spectral decomposition is entirely conventional in digital image compression, and only the principle is stated here.

The digital image, of dimension 2, is formed by a series of digital samples. These digital samples are for example bytes, each byte value representing a pixel of an image.

The digital signal thus formed is filtered through two digital filters, respectively low pass and high pass, in a first direction, for example horizontal.

After passing through decimators by two, the resulting filtered signals are in their turn filtered by two filters, respectively low pass and high pass, in a second direction, for example vertical. Each signal is once again passed through a decimator by two. There are then obtained, at the output of this first analysis unit, four sub-bands LL_1 , LH_1 , HL_1 and HH_1 of the highest resolution in the decomposition.

The sub-band LL_1 includes the components of low frequency in the two directions of the image signal I. The sub-band LH_1 includes the components of low frequency in a first direction and of high frequency in a second direction of the image signal I. The sub-band HL_1 includes the components of high frequency in a first direction and the components of low frequency in a second direction. Finally, the sub-band HH_1 includes the components of high frequency in both directions.

A second analysis unit filters in its turn the sub-band LL_1 in order to supply in the same way four sub-bands LL_2 , LH_2 , HL_2 and HH_2 of an intermediate resolution level in the decomposition level. Finally, in this example, the sub-band LL_2 is in its turn analysed by a third analysis unit in

order to supply four sub-bands LL_3 , LH_3 , HL_3 and HH_3 of the lowest resolution in this decomposition.

In this way ten sub-bands and three resolution levels are obtained. Naturally, the number of resolution levels, and consequently of sub-bands, can
5 be chosen differently, and can for example be equal to four resolution levels with thirteen sub-bands.

The method according to the invention includes here a step E11 of quantization, for example a normal scalar quantization, of the spectral coefficients obtained by spectral decomposition.

10 This step E11 of quantization of the spectral coefficients is performed here before the application of the required geometric transformation.

Successive steps E12 to E15 make it possible to determine the geometric transformation to be applied to the acquired image I as a function of the chosen orientation.

15 It is first of all verified, in a test step E12, whether the orientation chosen to take the image I corresponds to "landscape" mode.

In the affirmative, compression of the image continues without geometric transformation of the image.

20 In the negative, it is verified, in a second test step E13, whether the chosen orientation corresponds to "inverse landscape" mode.

In the affirmative, it is deduced therefrom that a rotation through 180 degrees must be applied to the image I.

Otherwise, a third test step E14 makes it possible to determine whether the chosen orientation corresponds to "portrait" mode.

25 In the affirmative, it is deduced therefrom that a rotation through 90 degrees must be applied to the image I.

Otherwise, a fourth test step E15 makes it possible to verify, or to deduce by elimination, that the chosen orientation corresponds to "inverse portrait" mode and to deduce therefrom that a rotation through 270 degrees (or
30 -90 degrees) must be applied to the image I.

Naturally, the order of the test steps E12 to E15 is given here by way of non-limitative example and can be modified.

There is then applied, if necessary, in steps E16, E17, E18, the geometric transformation determined on symbols associated with the spectral
5 coefficients.

Here, the geometric transformation is applied in the frequency sub-bands, directly on the quantization symbols.

A rotation through 90 degrees over all these symbols is then effected in this example, in a step E17.

10 In this case, the rotation through 90 degrees having the effect of reversing the vertical and horizontal directions, a step E19 of transposition of the frequency sub-bands having coefficients of low frequency in a first direction of the digital image and high frequency in a second direction of the digital image with frequency sub-bands of the same resolution level in the spectral
15 decomposition, having coefficients of high frequency in this first direction and low frequency in the second direction, is implemented.

In practice, here, in the decomposition as illustrated in Figure 6, the sub-bands HL_1 and LH_1 , HL_2 and LH_2 , and HL_3 and LH_3 are transposed.

Naturally, this transposition of the sub-bands is also required when
20 the geometric transformation to be applied is a rotation through 270 degrees.

The transposition step E19 is also adapted to update the width and height of the image I in the compressed file, the height and width being transposed when the image is pivoted through 90 or 270 degrees.

In addition, where the quantization step E11 described previously
25 includes a quantizer which depends on the horizontal and vertical directions of the digital signal representing the image I , in at least one sub-band of the digital signal, a geometric transformation identical to this quantizer is applied. For example, if the quantizer is associated with a quantization step table, the geometric transformation is applied to this quantization step table.

A step E20 of entering, in the compressed file, two indicators l_h , l_v representing the normal or reversed order of the symbols respectively in the two directions of the digital image I is implemented.

This indicator is in the form of an additional bit having a first value,

5 for example 0, representing a normal order of the symbols associated with the coefficients of the signal of the frequency sub-bands in a direction associated with the indicator. The value of this indicator is reversed, and equal to 1 for example, when the order of the symbols is reversed with respect to that obtained by the spectral decomposition.

10 For the image of dimension 2, two indicators are entered in the compressed file F , the first indicator l_h associated with the horizontal direction and a second indicator l_v associated with the vertical direction of the digital signal S .

15 The following table illustrates, according to the different rotations applied to the image I , the new values of the indicators l_h and l_v which are entered in the compressed file as a function of the initial values l_h and l_v .

The bit which is the inverse of bit l is hereinafter denoted $inv(l)$, that is to say $inv(1) = 0$ and $inv(0) = 1$.

The rotations are indicated in the clockwise direction.

20

Transformation	l_h entered	l_v entered
Identity	l_h	l_v
Rotation through 90 degrees	$inv(l_v)$	l_h
Rotation through 180 degrees	$inv(l_h)$	$inv(l_v)$
Rotation through 270 degrees	l_v	$inv(l_h)$

It is practical to consider that the value 0 represents a normal order of the symbols and thus to enter the following values for the indicators l_h and l_v in the compressed file with the image I :

25

Transformation	Ih entered	lv entered
Identity	0	0
Rotation through 90 degrees	1	0
Rotation through 180 degrees	1	1
Rotation through 270 degrees	0	1

A coding step E21, for example an entropic coding, is next implemented, and then the compressed file containing the image, possibly modified geometrically, and the associated indicators, is formed in a formation step E22.

5 This compressed file is thus stored in a non-volatile memory 25 of the photographic apparatus 20 with a view to subsequent display of the stored images.

10 By virtue of the present invention, all the images I taken by the apparatus 20 are stored in different orientations which correspond to a convenient display orientation.

When these images are displayed, at the time of decoding, the digital signal to be decoded will have been transformed geometrically with respect to the initial signal S.

15 The patent application FR 98 10734 in the name of the Applicant is incorporated by reference in the present description with regard to the decoding of such an image modified geometrically at the time of coding.

20 The decoding method includes first of all, in a conventional fashion, an entropic decoding step, the reverse of the entropic coding step E21 of the coding method described above, and a dequantization step, the reverse of the quantization step E11 of the coding method.

A first direction of the image, for example the horizontal direction, is next envisaged.

25 A reading step makes it possible to read the indicator Ih representing a normal or reversed state of the coefficients of the frequency sub-bands in the horizontal direction of the digital signal.

00000000000000000000000000000000

It is tested whether the order of the coefficients is reversed, for example by verifying whether the value of l_h is equal to 1.

In the affirmative, the synthesis filters used for effecting a reverse spectral transformation on the coded image I are made symmetrical. In addition, a shifting of the synthesis filters by one index may be necessary when the digital signal to be reconstructed is even.

The symmetrisation and shifting of the synthesis filters correspond to a transformation of the original spectral recomposition filters in the horizontal direction as a function of the parity of the digital signal and the value of the indicator I_h .

For each synthesis filter, whether or not the order of the coefficients is reversed, the parity of the spectral recomposition filter is next calculated and a conventional symmetrical extension processing is applied to the ends of the digital signal which is a function of the parity of the spectral recomposition filter, the parity of the signal and the value of the indicator lh .

All these steps are next reiterated for the other direction, the vertical direction, of the image to be decoded using the value of the indicator l_v .

The decoding method next includes a step of spectral recomposition of the digital signal which makes it possible to obtain as an output an image correctly oriented on the display screen.

The present invention thus makes it possible to transform a digital image geometrically at the time of its coding, minimising the complexity of the calculations and the memory space necessary for this geometric transformation.

It is particularly well suited to being implemented in a digital photographic apparatus having a "slide show" mode in which all the images are displayed one after the other on a screen, all in the same direction, whilst the user takes at least two types of photograph, some with the apparatus horizontal, the others with the apparatus vertical.

As the slide show progresses, certain images will be displayed askew. The geometric orientation modification method according to the

invention makes it possible to effect a rotation of the images when they are coded and thus store them in different orientations in a memory of the apparatus 20.

Naturally, numerous modifications can be made to the example 5 embodiment described above without departing from the scope of the invention.

Thus the spectral transformation used could also be a discrete cosine transform (DCT). One technique making it possible to modify the orientation of the image after spectral transformation thereof is described in detail, for example, in the article "A new family of algorithms for manipulating 10 compressed images" by Brian C. Smith, Lawrence A. Rowe, IEEE Transactions on Computer Graphics and Applications, September, 1993, and in US patent 5751865 (Felice A. Micco, Martin E. Banton).

In addition, the entropic coding step E21 could if necessary be, at 15 least partially, implemented before the geometric transformation of the image, the symbols transformed thereafter then being entropic codes associated respectively with the coefficients of the sub-band signal obtained by spectral decomposition. Modification of the geometric orientation of the image can be effected on these entropic codes when the entropic coding used at the time of coding is for example a Huffman coding.

20 Conversely, if the quantization techniques used during the coding of the signal do not associate a quantization symbol with each sub-band coefficient, the symbols to which the geometric transformations applied are then directly the coefficients of the sub-band signal obtained by a spectral decomposition of the image I. Such is the case notably when the coding uses a 25 technique of vector quantization of the digital signal decomposed into frequency sub-bands.

REVENDICATIONS

1. Method of modifying the geometric orientation of a digital image (I) in an image acquisition apparatus (20) adapted to acquire an image (I) in 5 one amongst several different orientations and to store said image in the form of a compressed file, characterised in that it comprises the following steps:

- acquiring (E1) an image (I) in a chosen orientation;
- identifying (E2) said chosen orientation;
- converting (E3) said image into a digital image;
- 10 - spectral transformation (E10) of said digital image;
- determining (E12-E15) a geometric transformation to be applied to said image acquired as a function of the chosen orientation;
- applying (E16-E18) the geometric transformation determined to symbols associated with spectral coefficients issuing from said spectral 15 transformation;
- recording (E20) in the compressed file two indicators (lh, lv) representing a normal or reversed order of the symbols respectively in two directions of the digital image (I); and
- coding (E21) the digital image in said compressed file.

20 2. Geometric orientation modification method according to Claim 1, characterised in that it includes a step (E11) of quantizing the spectral coefficients before the step (E16-E18) of applying the geometric transformation, said symbols being quantization symbols.

25 3. Geometric orientation modification method according to one of Claims 1 or 2, characterised in that said spectral transformation is a multiresolution decomposition, such as a wavelet spectral decomposition.

4. Geometric orientation modification method according to one of 30 Claims 1 to 3, characterised in that the step (E12-E15) of identifying the chosen orientation is implemented by an automatic orientation detector (27) incorporated in said image acquisition apparatus (20).

5. Geometric orientation modification method according to one of Claims 1 to 3, characterised in that the step (E12-E15) of identifying the chosen orientation is implemented by a manual orientation selector (28) incorporated in said image acquisition apparatus (20).

5 6. Geometric orientation modification method according to one of Claims 1 to 5, characterised in that the image acquisition orientation is chosen from amongst a rotation through 90 degrees, a rotation through 180 degrees or a rotation through 270 degrees.

7. Geometric orientation modification method according to one of 10 Claims 1 to 6, characterised in that said spectral transformation is a multiresolution spectral decomposition, such as a wavelet spectral decomposition, and in that it also comprises a step of transposition (E19) of a frequency sub-band (HL_1 , HL_2 , HL_3) having coefficients of low frequency in a first direction of the digital image and of high frequency in a second direction of 15 the digital image with a frequency sub-band (LH_1 , LH_2 , LH_3) of the same resolution level in the spectral decomposition, having coefficients of high frequency in said first direction and of low frequency in said second direction when the geometric transformation comprises a rotation through 90 degrees or 270 degrees.

20 8. Geometric orientation modification method according to one of Claims 1 to 7, characterised in that it also comprises a step of transposition (E19) of the values of the height and width of the image when the geometric transformation applied comprises a rotation through 90 degrees or 270 degrees.

25 9. Device for modifying the geometric orientation of a digital image (I) incorporated in an image acquisition apparatus (20) adapted to acquire an image in accordance with one amongst several different orientations and to store said image in the form of a compressed file, having:

- means of acquiring (21, 22) an image (I) in a chosen orientation;
- means of identifying (27, 28) said chosen orientation;
- means of converting (23) said image into a digital image;

- means of spectral transformation (24, 29, 30) of said digital image;
- means of determining (24, 29, 30) a geometric transformation to be applied to said image acquired as a function of the chosen orientation;
- means of applying (24, 29, 30) the geometric transformation determined to symbols associated with spectral coefficients issuing from said spectral transformation;
- means of recording (24, 29, 30) in the compressed file two indicators (lh, lv) representing a normal or reversed order of the symbol respectively in two directions of the digital image (I); and

5 10 - means of coding (24, 29, 30) the digital image (I) in said compressed file.

10. Geometric orientation modification device according to Claim 9, characterised in that it has means (24, 29, 30) of quantizing the spectral coefficients adapted to quantize said spectral coefficients before application of

15 15 the geometric transformation, said symbols being quantization symbols.

11. Geometric orientation modification device according to one of Claims 9 or 10, characterised in that said spectral transformation is a multiresolution spectral decomposition, such as a wavelet spectral decomposition.

20 12. Geometric orientation modification device according to one of Claims 9 to 11, characterised in that the means of identifying the chosen orientation comprise an automatic orientation detector (27) incorporated in said image acquisition apparatus (20).

13. Geometric orientation modification device according to one of

25 25 Claims 9 to 12, characterised in that the means of identifying the chosen orientation comprise a manual orientation selector (28) incorporated in said image acquisition apparatus (20).

14. Geometric orientation modification device according to one of

30 30 Claims 9 to 13, characterised in that the image acquisition orientation is chosen from amongst a rotation through 90 degrees, a rotation through 180 degrees or a rotation through 270 degrees.

15. Geometric orientation modification device according to one of Claims 9 to 14, characterised in that said spectral transformation is a multiresolution spectral decomposition, such as a wavelet spectral decomposition, and in that it also comprises means of transposition (24, 29, 30) of a frequency sub-band (HL_1 , HL_2 , HL_3) having coefficients of low frequency in a first direction of the digital image and of high frequency in a second direction of the digital image with a frequency sub-band (LH_1 , LH_2 , LH_3) of the same resolution level in the spectral decomposition, having coefficients of high frequency in said first direction and of low frequency in said second direction 5 when the geometric transformation comprises a rotation through 90 degrees or 10 270 degrees.

16. Geometric orientation modification device according to one of Claims 9 to 15, characterised in that it also has means (24, 29, 30) of transposing the values of the height and width of the image when the geometric 15 transformation applied comprises a rotation through 90 degrees or 270 degrees.

17. Geometric orientation modification device according to one of Claims 9 to 16, characterised in that the means for the spectral transformation of said digital image, the means of determining a geometric transformation, the 20 means of applying the geometric transformation, the means of entering indicators (lh , lv) in the compressed file, the coding means, and if applicable the quantization and transposition means, are incorporated in:

- a microprocessor (24),
- a read only memory (29) containing a program for modifying the 25 geometric orientation of a digital image (I), and
- a random access memory (30) containing registers adapted to record variables modified during the running of said program.

18. An image processing method, comprising the steps of ;
- generating image data representing an image;
30 - wavelet-transforming the image data;
- quantizing the transformed data; and

- entropically encoding the quantized data, characterized in that said method further comprises the steps of:

- identifying a correct orientation of the image represented by the image data, and

5 - applying a geometric transformation to the transformed data in accordance with the result of the identification.

19. A method according to Claim 18, characterized in that the image data are transformed into sub-bands corresponding to each of a plurality of resolution levels in said wavelet-transforming step.

10 20. A method according to Claim 18, characterized in that the result
of the identification is classified in four kinds of cases.

21. A method according to Claim 18, characterized in that said method further comprises the step of storing the information showing the result of the identification, and the encoded data.

15 22. An image processing apparatus, comprising:

- means of generating an image data representing an image;
- means of wavelet-transforming the image data;
- means of quantizing the transformed data; and
- means of entropically encoding the quantized data, character

20 in that said apparatus further comprises:

- means of identifying a correct orientation of the image represented by the image data; and
 - means of applying a geometric transformation to said transformed data in accordance with the result of the identification.

25 23. An apparatus according to Claim 22, characterized in that said
wavelet-transforming means transforms the image data into sub-bands
corresponding to each of a plurality of resolution levels.

24. An apparatus according to Claim 22, characterized in that the result of the identification is classified in four kinds of cases.

25. An apparatus according to Claim 22, characterized in that said apparatus further comprises the means of storing the information showing the result of the identification, and the encoded data.

26. Image acquisition apparatus, characterised in that it has a
5 geometric orientation modification device according to one of Claims 9 to 17.

27. Digital photographic apparatus, characterised in that it has a geometric orientation modification device according to one of Claims 9 to 17.

28. Digital camera adapted to function in a still image mode, characterised in that it has a geometric orientation modification device
10 according to one of Claims 9 to 17.

29. Storage means, readable by a microprocessor, characterized in that it is adapted to implement the geometric orientation modification method according to one of claims 1 to 8.

30. Storage means, readable by a microprocessor, characterized in
15 that it is adapted to implement the image processing method according to one of claims 18 to 21.

31. Computer program product, loadable into a programmable processing apparatus, characterized in that it comprises software code portions adapted to implement the geometric orientation modification method according
20 to one of claims 1 to 8.

32. Computer program product, loadable into a programmable processing apparatus, characterized in that it comprises software code portions adapted to implement the image processing method according to one of claims 18 to 21

TITLE of the INVENTION

"Method of modifying the geometric orientation of an image"

TEXT of the ABSTRACT

A method of modifying the geometric orientation of a digital image in an image acquisition apparatus adapted to acquire an image in one amongst several different orientations and to store said image in the form of a compressed file, comprises the steps of acquiring an image in a chosen orientation; identifying the chosen orientation; converting said image into a digital image; spectral transformation (E10) of the digital image, determination (E12-E15) of a geometric transformation to be applied to the image acquired as a function of the chosen orientation; application (E16-E18) of the geometric transformation determined to symbols associated with spectral coefficients issuing from the spectral transformation; recording (E20), in the compressed file, two indicators representing a normal or reverse order of the symbols respectively in two directions of the digital image; and coding (E21) of the digital image in the compressed file.

Use notably in a digital photographic apparatus.

(Figure 4)

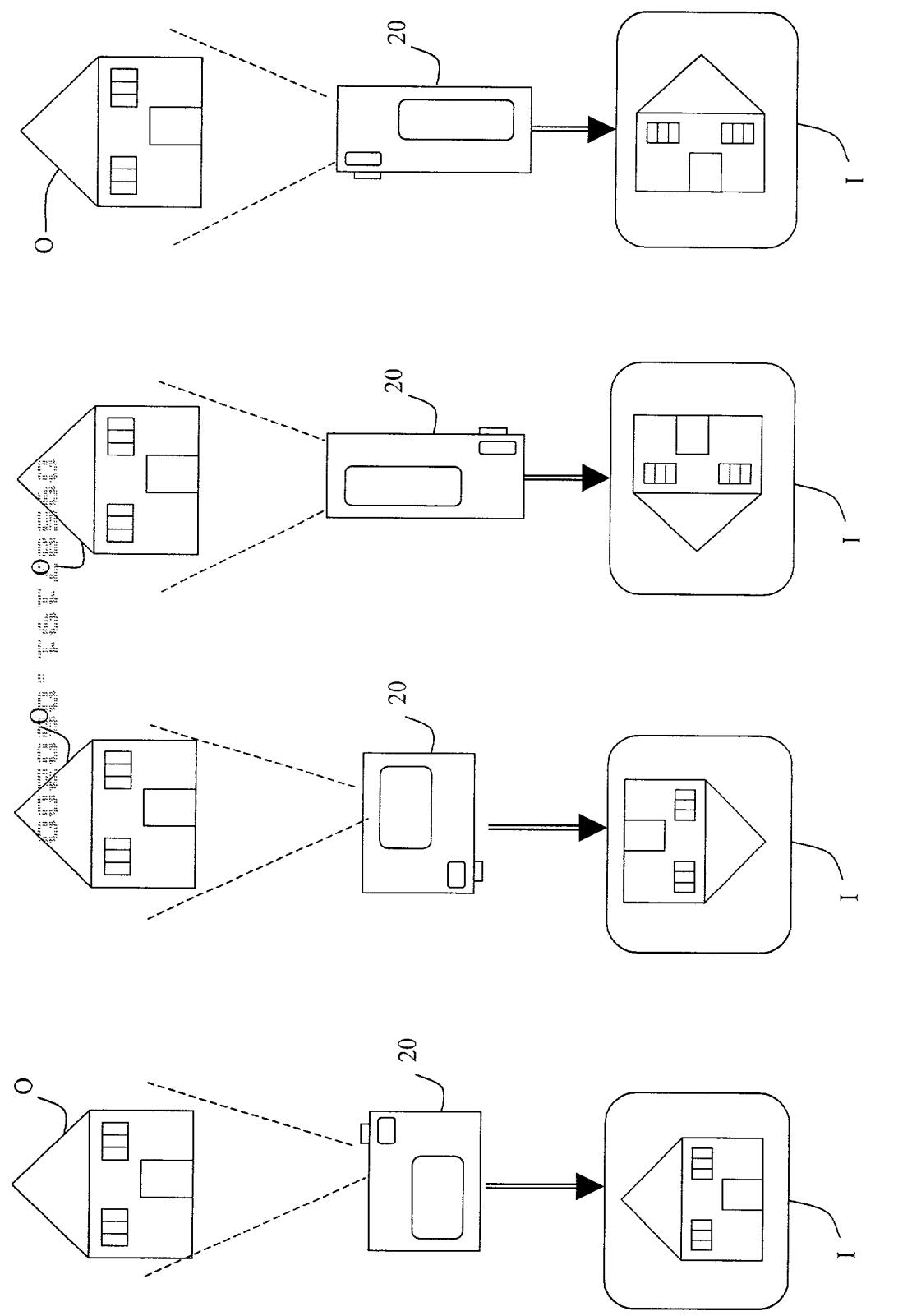


Fig. 1

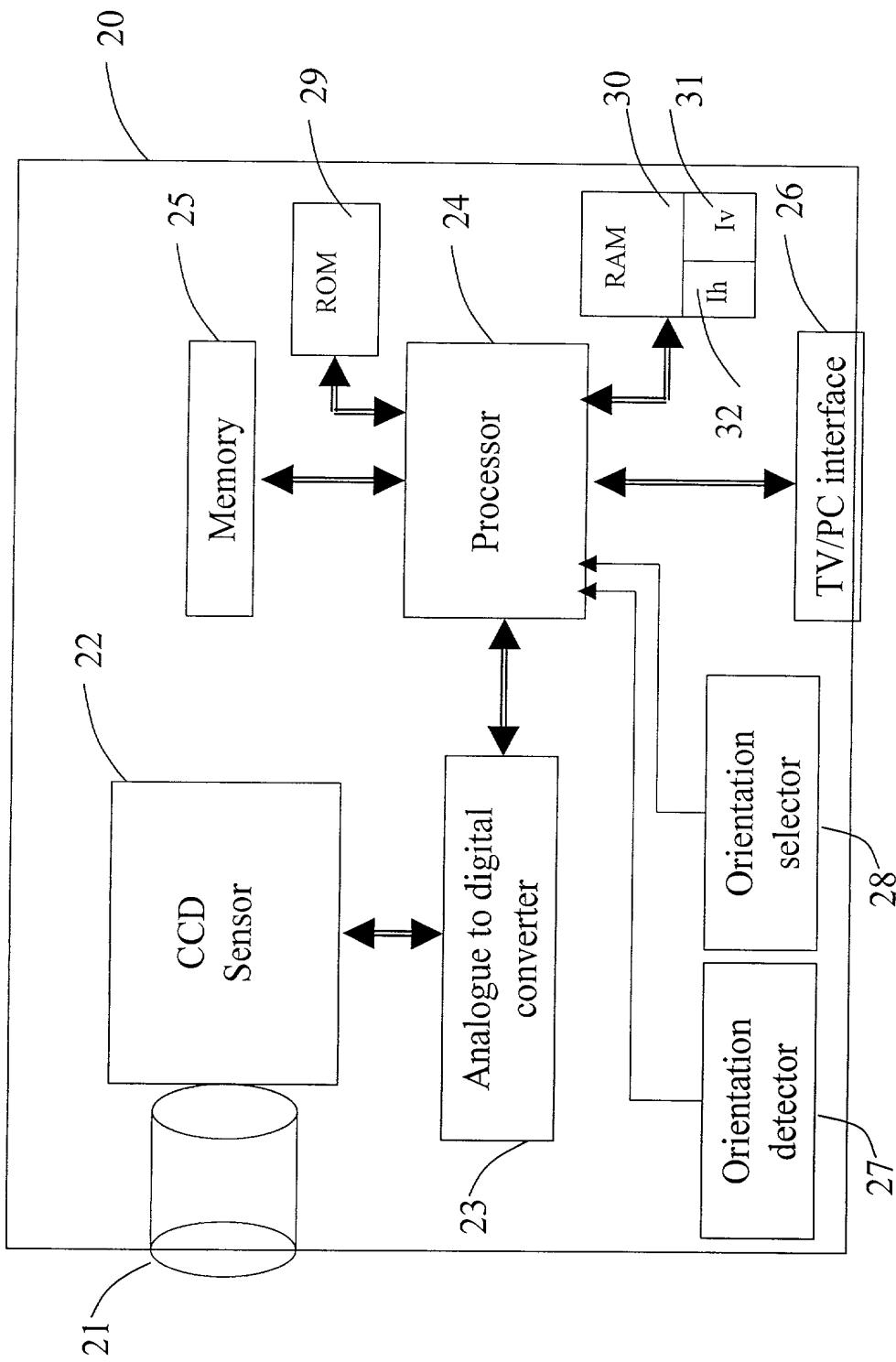


Fig. 2

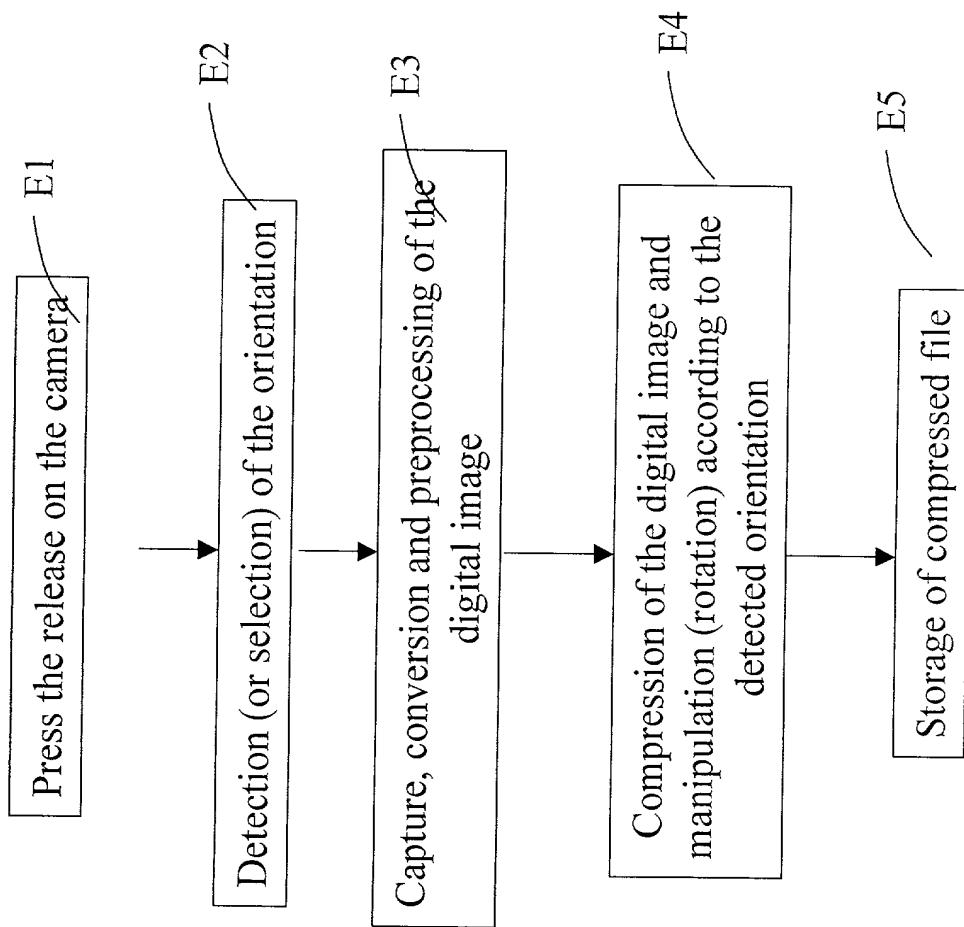


Fig. 3

E10 Transformation into sub-bands

Scalar quantization

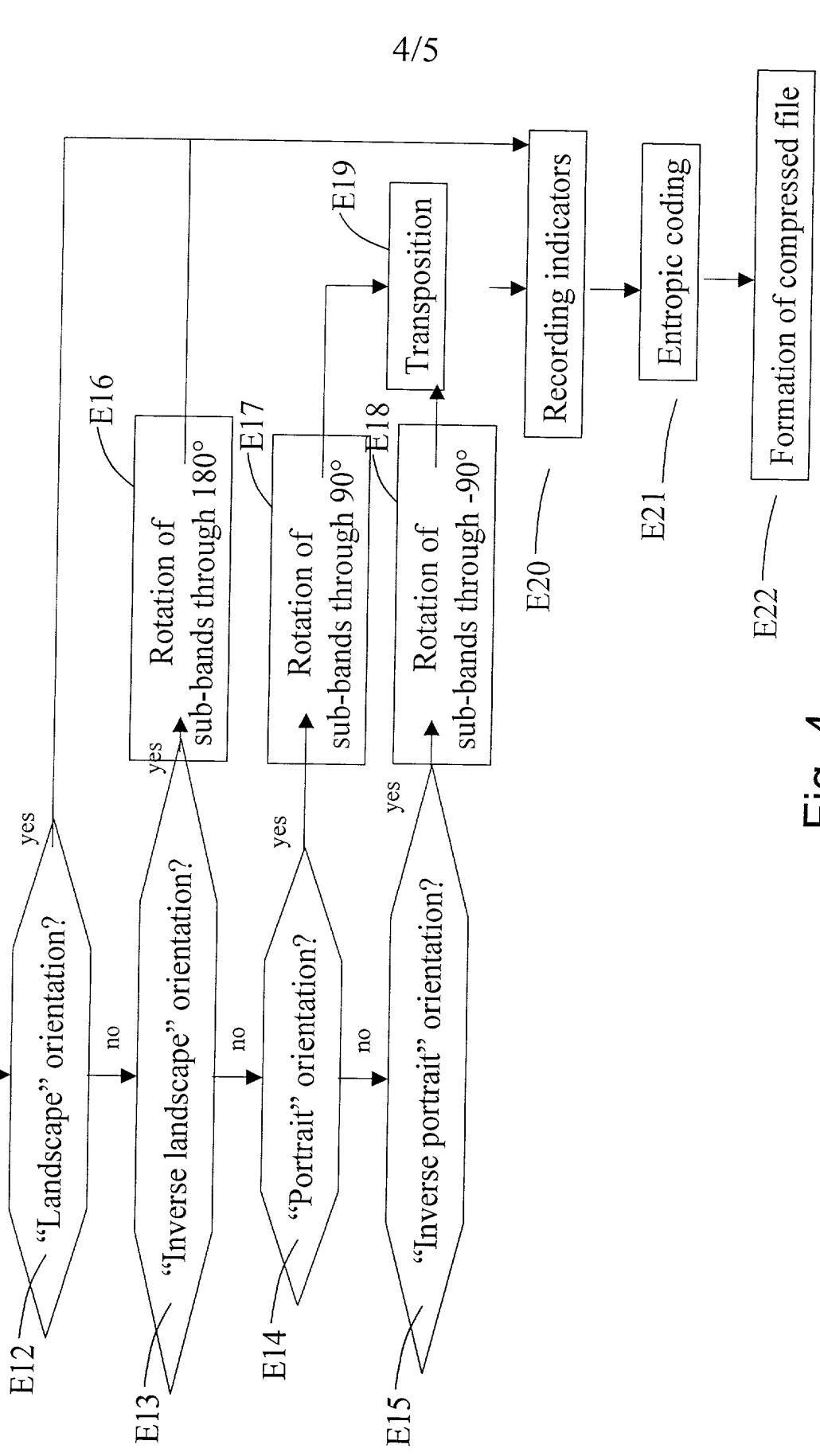


Fig. 4

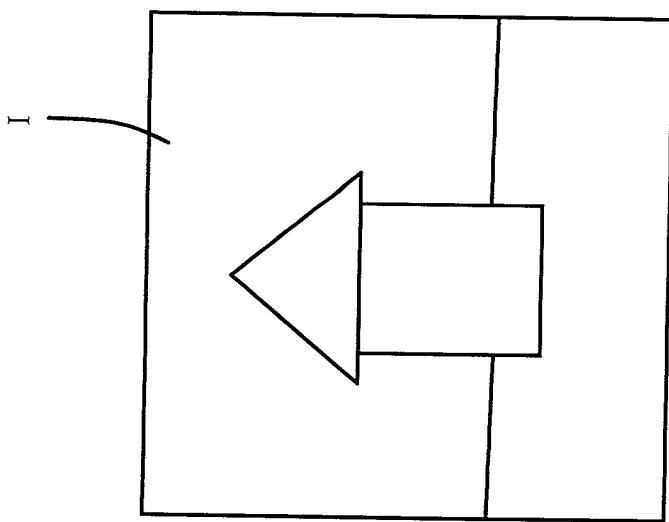
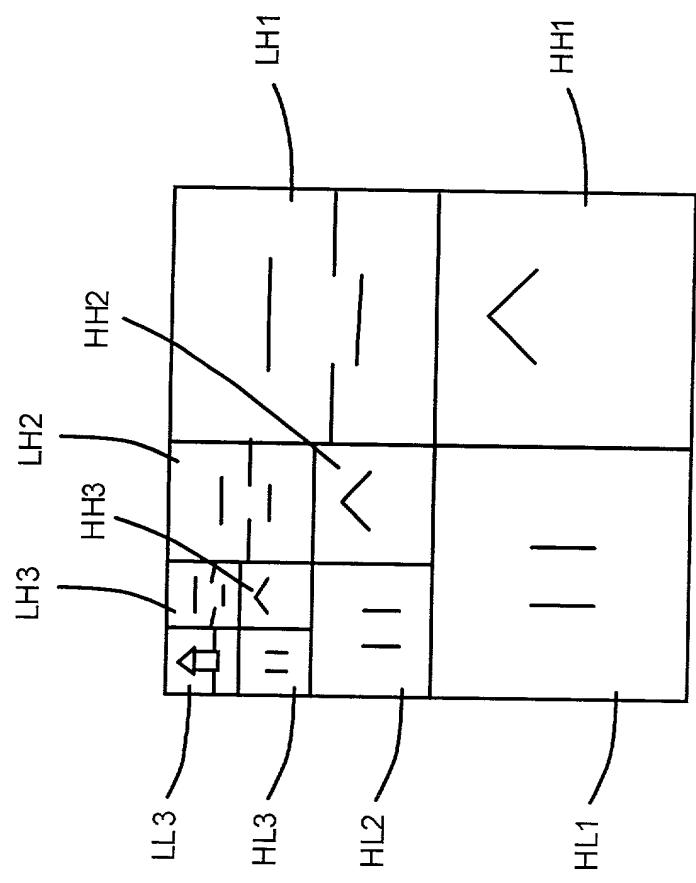


Fig. 5

Fig. 6

**COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY
FOR PATENT APPLICATION**
(Page 1)

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled METHOD OF MODIFYING THE GEOMETRIC ORIENTATION OF AN IMAGE

the specification of which is attached hereto was filed on _____ as United States Application No. or PCT International Application No. _____ (if applicable). and was amended on _____

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. §119(a)-(d) or §365(b), of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or § 365(a) of any PCT international application which designates at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

<u>Country</u>	<u>Application No.</u>	<u>Filed (Day/Mo./Yr.)</u>	<u>Priority Claimed</u>
France	9907675	June 17, 1999	Yes

(Yes/No)

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 120 of any United States application(s), or § 365(c) of any PCT international application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT international application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

<u>Application No.</u>	<u>Filed (Day/Mo./Yr.)</u>	<u>Status (Patented, Pending, Abandoned)</u>
N/A		

N/A

I hereby appoint the practitioners associated with the firm and Customer Number provided below to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith, and direct that all correspondence be addressed to the address associated with that Customer Number:

**FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
Customer Number: 05514**

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

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COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY
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